

VZCZCXR08186  
PP RUEHIK  
DE RUEHTA #1840 2860507  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 130507Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASTANA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6598  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 2029  
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1398  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 1044  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2097  
RHMFSS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEFAAA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEWMFB/DTRA CT WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 1585  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 1455  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0083

UNCLAS ASTANA 001840

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, ISN  
NSC FOR CONNERY

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV PREL TBIO KZ  
SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: CENTRAL REFERENCE LABORATORY  
COORDINATION

**¶11.** (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

**¶12.** (SBU) During the October 7-8 visit of Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman to Astana, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense Andrew Weber asked several Kazakhstani officials to designate a single government entity to be responsible for coordinating the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Education and Science so that U.S. work can proceed on building a national Central Reference Laboratory (CRL) in Almaty to promote biological threat reduction. From Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev and Prime Minister Karim Masimov we heard during the visit that the Foreign Ministry would provide the necessary coordination.

**¶13.** (SBU) On October 12, the Ambassador met with Deputy Foreign Minister Kairat Umarov to seek clarification. Umarov explained that the Foreign Ministry will convene the government's standing Special Commission on Biological Security. The Commission will convoke all ministries and agencies with equities in the CRL. The Government of Kazakhstan will then officially communicate that information to the United States. When asked how long this process would take, Umarov responded that this kind of inter-agency process normally takes one or two months, but that the Foreign Ministry would press to accelerate it.  
HOAGLAND